

BATTLEFORD COLUMN

NORTHWEST FIELD FORCE

1885 • 1935



OTTER'S COLUMN

Northwest Mounted Police (25 mounted, 1 Gun)	50
"B" Battery R.C.A. (2 Guns)	113
"C" Company, Infantry School Corps	49
Governor General's Foot Guards	51
Queen's Own Rifles	274
Scouts	6
Total of all ranks	543
Wagon train (200 wagons)	202

AT CUTKNIFE

Northwest Mounted Police (50 mounted)	75
"B" Battery R.C.A.	80
"C" Co. I.S.C.	45
G.G.F.G.	20
Q.O.R. (incl. Ambulance Corps)	60
Battleford Rifles	45
1 Gatling Gun	
2 Seven-pounder Guns	
Total of all ranks	325
48 Wagons	

KILLED IN ACTION AT CUTKNIFE

Corpl. W.H.T. Lowry, N.W.M.P.
Corpl. R.B. Sleigh, N.W.M.P.
Constable Burke, N.W.M.P.
Bugler Herbert Foulkes, "C" Co., I.S.C.
Pte. W. Osgoode, G.G.F.G.
Pte. J. Rogers, G.G.F.G.
Pte. A. Dobbs, Battleford Rifles
Chas. Winder, teamster

DISTANCES

Toronto to Swift Current via Carleton Place 2006 miles.
Winnipeg to Qu'Appelle 324. Qu'Appelle to Swift Current
185. Swift Current to Battleford 200. Battleford to
Cutknife 38. Battleford to Fort Pitt 93. Battleford to
Birch Lake district 90. Battleford down Saskatchewan
to Lake Winnipeg 500. Across Lake Winnipeg to Selkirk
300. Selkirk to Winnipeg 23. Winnipeg to Port Arthur
424. Port Arthur to Owen Sound by steamer 488. Owen
Sound to Toronto 129.

THE BATTLEFORD COLUMN

N.W.F.F. 1885

Daily record, March 27th to July 24th

- March 27th Called out for service in the Northwest.
- 28th 9 a.m. Q.O.R. parade at Drill Shed.
- 29th Sunday. Parade for inspection in afternoon.
- 30th 9-12 at Drill Shed. Col. Otter's address.
Off at 12.30 by C.P.R. - Carleton Place in evening.
- 31st Mattawa.
- April 1st 2.30 a.m. Biscootasing. 11 p.m. "end of iron".
60 teams run us 45 miles via Dog Lake.
- 2nd 8.30 breakfast at C.P.R. camp. 5 p.m. reach
rails again. 100 miles in flat-cars, therm.
20 below.
- 3rd 11 a.m. off cars, down to Port Munro. 1.30 to
8 p.m. march 23 miles across ice to McKellar.
- 4th Flat-cars to Jackfish, 45 miles. Teamed 27
miles across ice to Winston's. (Party of 28
delayed, get there 3 a.m.)
- 5th Easter Sunday. 52 miles on flat-cars. 2 p.m.
to sundown march across ice 11 miles to Red
Rock. Emigrant sleepers!
- 6th 7 a.m. Port Arthur. 7 p.m. Rat Portage.
- 7th 8 a.m. Winnipeg. 6.30 p.m. westward again.
- 8th Qu'Appelle early in morning. Tents pitched.
Blankets and rubber sheets issued.
- 9th G.G.F.G. from Ottawa join us. Skirmishing drill
and guard mounting.
- 10th 4 p.m. tents struck. Westward in baggage cars
through Regina, Moose Jaw, etc.
- 11th Swift Current soon after daybreak. The prairie!
65th Battalion of Montreal pass through. Col.
Herchmer with N.W.M.P. camped near us.

- April 12th Sunday. E.C. Acheson conducts at church parade.
- 13th Reveille 4 a.m. Ammunition served out. Start march north at 7 a.m. 15 miles by 5 p.m.
- 14th On march at 6.45. South Saskatchewan sighted at 4 p.m.
- 15th In camp, rainy and cold.
- 16th Prairie fire.
- 17th Ferried across river on Str. Northcote.
- 18th Snow. Strike tents at noon, and soon off for Battleford. "Corral" at night.
- 19th March over treeless prairie. No wood for cooking. Flowers. Frosty night on damp ground.
- 20th Fast going. No meat, no water. Dried apples and hard-tack.
- 21st 30 miles. News that Capt. Dickens of N.W.M.P. evacuated Fort Pitt.
- 22nd More bushy country. Scouts this p.m. come upon band of Indians. Cold, dark night.
- 23rd On march at 5.45 a.m. At 5 p.m. within 3 miles of Battleford. Light from fire started there (Judge Rouleau's house). Indians make off before scouts.
- 24th Enter South Battleford. Camp near Gov't. House. Otter takes over command from Captain Dickens of N.W.M.P. Body of Payne (murdered) found at Stony Reserve.
- 29th Col. Miller with 3 Cos. Q.O.R. to occupy town of Battleford.
- May 2nd Engagement at Cutknife. 8 killed, 14 wounded.
- 8th Whole Column across to Battleford, except No. 1 Co., Q.O.R., to guard Gov't. House. People timid about returning to homes. -Cleaning up Barracks Square.
- 14th Supply train captured by Indians and halfbreeds on Swift Current trail 15 miles south of Battleford. 1 man of Police patrol killed, 1 wounded.

- May 16th Scouts report Indians moving east, to join Riel, not knowing of his capture.
- 18th Father Cochin and other prisoners come from Poundmaker with letter to Otter saying P. has heard of Riel's defeat and asks terms. Otter tells him to await Middleton's arrival.
- 24th Middleton reaches Battleford and takes command.
- 25th Parade of all troops for Queen's birthday.
- 26th Poundmaker surrenders.
- 28th Moosomin comes in.
- June 1st Supply train arrives.
- 3rd Escort of 30 men of Q.O.R. in steamer with supplies for Fort Pitt. Anchored over night in midstream.
- 4th Arrive at Fort Pitt 6 p.m.
- 7th Escort in steamer off early for Battleford, with orders from Middleton to Otter. Mrs. Gowanlock and Mrs. Delaney on board. Arrive at Battleford late in evening.
- 8th Otter moves force to north shore of Saskatchewan.
- 9th Start north to head off Big Bear. March 4 to 9 a.m. Halt mid-day. March 4 to 9 p.m.
- 11th Reach Stone Creek, 55 miles from Battleford, 3 from Turtle Lake. Scout to west and east, and patrol plains for 3 days.
- 12th Capture ponies etc. from members of Big Bear's band. Men taken later.
- 14th Find camp 15 miles north of lake recently occupied by Big Bear's men. (Belongings of McLean family found.) Trail through heavy wood.
- 15th Eastward parallel to Big Bear's trail to Stony Lake.
- 16th Scouts sent to Birch Lake, 20 miles east of Stony. Band of non-treaty Indians (150) with looted stores. Take these from them and arrest five.
- 19th Violent thunderstorm at night.

June 23rd Reveille 2 a.m. Reach Birch Lake at 7.

24th to

28th About Birch Lake.

29th 3 p.m. start south for Battleford

30th Jackfish Lake. Wade 100 yards. V
thunderstorm at night.

July 1st Reach North Battleford 7.30 p.m.

5th Ferried across in evening.

6th Left Battleford for home by steamer down the
Saskatchewan.

7th Fort Carlton 7.30 p.m. Gen. Strange on board.

8th Prince Albert for breakfast. Big Bear in cell.
McLean family (part) on board.

9th Stuck on sandbar.

10th Ran all night. Passed the Pas Mission in night.
Cedar Lake. Grand Rapids 6 p.m.

11th March over tramway ($3\frac{1}{2}$ miles). Lots of fish.

13th Left Grand Rapids 10.30 a.m. to cross Lake
Winnipeg.

14th Passed the Narrows about 6 p.m. Got cheques for
42 days' pay.

15th Reach Selkirk 11 a.m. On to Winnipeg.

16th to

19th In Winnipeg. Leave Winnipeg 3 p.m.

20th Reach Port Arthur 5 p.m.

21st to

22nd Lake Superior, Huron, Georgian Bay.

23rd Owen Sound in morning. Toronto in afternoon.

24th Parade at Drill Shed. Active Service ends 12 p.m.

Out 120 days. Travelled 5000 miles. Marched 450.

North Shore Gap in C.P.R. 296 miles: In sleighs
45 miles; on flat-cars 90; march across ice on
Lake Superior 23; on flat-cars 45; in sleighs
30; on flat-cars 52; march across ice 11 miles.

June 23rd Revelle 2 a.m. Reach Birch Lake
 24th to
 25th About Birch Lake.
 26th 5 p.m. start south for Battlement
 27th 2 p.m. start south for Battlement
 28th 2 p.m. start south for Battlement
 29th 2 p.m. start south for Battlement
 30th 2 p.m. start south for Battlement
 1st Reach North Battlement 7.30 p.m.
 2nd Fertilized horses in evening.
 3rd Left Battlement for home by steamer down the
 4th
 5th Fort Carlton 7.30 p.m. Gen. Strange on board.
 6th Prince Albert for breakfast. Big Bear in cell.
 7th McLean family (part) on board.
 8th Stuck on sandbar.
 9th
 10th Ran all night. Passed the Red Mission in night.
 11th Cedar Lake. Grand Rapids 6 p.m.
 12th March over tundra (3 1/2 miles). Lots of fish.
 13th Left Grand Rapids 10.30 a.m. to cross Lake
 14th Winnipeg.
 15th Passed the Narrows about 6 p.m. Got cheques for
 16th day's pay.
 17th Reached Selkirk 11 a.m. On to Winnipeg.
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 19th In Winnipeg. Leave Winnipeg 5 p.m.
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 22nd Lake Superior, Huron, Georgian Bay.
 23rd Owen Sound in morning. Toronto in afternoon.
 24th Parade at Drill Shed. Active Service ends 12 p.m.
 Out 120 days. Travelled 5000 miles. Marched 450.

North Shore Gap in G.P.R. 296 miles. In sleighs
 45 miles; on flat-carts 90; march across ice on
 Lake Superior 25; on flat-carts 45; in sleighs
 50; on flat-carts 25; march across ice 11 miles.

